

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for plugging a cell of a honeycomb structure having a plurality of cells surrounded by partition walls and extending through an axial direction, the method comprising steps of:

forming a plugging member by extrusion molding and/or press molding;

inserting the plugging member formed in a predetermined shape into the cell while keeping the predetermined shape;

bonding the plugging member to the partition walls surrounding the plugging member, to form a plug portion, wherein the bonding is achieved by disposing a bond material between the plugging member and the partition walls surrounding the plugging member and firing the bond material, wherein a major component of the plugging member is ceramic.

2. (Original) The method for plugging the cell of the honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein the plugging member is an unfired ceramic molded body.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The method for plugging the cell of the honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein the plugging member is a fired ceramic body.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The method for plugging the cell of the honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein the plugging member has a columnar shape.

8. (Original) The method for plugging the cells of the honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein the plugging member comprises a concave portion, and the

plug portion is formed so that the concave portion forms a concave in relation to a surface parallel to an end face of the honeycomb structure.

9. (Original) The method for plugging the cell of the honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein the plugging member comprises a convex portion, and the plug portion is formed so that the convex portion forms a convex in relation to a surface parallel to an end face of the honeycomb structure.

10. (Original) The method for plugging the cell of the honeycomb structure according to claim 9, wherein the convex portion comprises a portion having a pyramid shape or a conical shape.

11. (Original) The method for plugging the cell of the honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein the plugging member has a spherical shape.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The method for plugging the cell of the honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein a major component of the bond material is the same as that of at least one of the honeycomb structure and the plugging member.

14. (Original) The method for plugging the cell of the honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein the plugging member contains, as the major component, at least one material selected from a group consisting of cordierite, alumina, mullite, silicon nitride, and silicon carbide.

15. (Original) The method for plugging the cell of the honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein the plugging member has a catalytic activity.

16. (Original) The method for plugging the cell of the honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein the plugging member carries or contains a catalytic component.

17. (Original) The method for plugging the cells of the honeycomb structure according to claim 1, wherein the plugging member and the honeycomb structure contain the same ceramic as the major component.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a honeycomb plugged structure, comprising:

plugging at least a certain cells of a honeycomb structure having a plurality of cells surrounded by partition walls and extending through an axial direction, the plugging process comprising steps of;

forming a plugging member by extrusion molding and/or press molding;

inserting the plugging member formed in a predetermined shape into the cell while keeping the predetermined shape;

bonding the plugging member to the partition walls surrounding the plugging member, to form a plug portion, wherein the bonding is achieved by disposing a bond material between the plugging member and the partition walls surrounding the plugging member and firing the bond material, wherein a major component of the plugging member is ceramic.